



Campus Fire Safety Report 2023

ANNUAL STUDENT HOUSING FIRE SAFETY REPORT

This report is in accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (PL 110-315).

Georgia Tech's fire safety rules and policies are intended to prevent fires, and fire-related injuries and deaths. The Institute maintains a Fire Safety Office consisting of a fire marshal, deputy fire marshal, and two fire safety specialists. The Fire Safety Office manages a comprehensive risk reduction program consisting of plan review, construction inspections, annual fire inspections, the Hot Works program, night inspections, event support, operational permits, the Fire Protection System Management program, a statewide fire department liaison, and Campus Fire Safety Month.

Along with this program, the state fire marshal annually deputizes the Georgia Tech fire marshal to perform the duties of safety inspections, issuance of Certificates of Occupancy, and fire investigations.

Plan Review is an opportunity for the Fire Safety Office staff to provide feedback and oversight on construction projects and lab renovations for the Institute. Permits are issued and inspections provided throughout the project phases.

Construction Inspections involve the progressive inspection process of examining construction-related features against permit drawings. Typical intervals of inspection are at 50 percent, 80 percent, and 100 percent completion levels.

Annual Fire Inspections involve formal examination of an occupancy and its associated uses or processes to determine compliance with fire and life safety codes and standards.

Hot Works is a permit program for any work that generates sparks or heat. The Web-based system allows contractors and facilities staff to apply for permits. Georgia Tech's fire safety specialist provides fire prevention oversight in alignment with guidelines from FM Global, Hot Works, and the International Fire Code.

Night Inspections and **Event Support** provide opportunities for campus-based organizations and groups to collaborate on fire and life safety aspects of events, celebration, and large gatherings.

Operational Permits, as defined by the International Fire Code, are for forty-three different operational conditions that require procedural review and permit annually.

Fire Protection System Management is a Web-based program that provides coordination and oversight during the temporary shutdowns of fire alarm systems and fire suppression systems for modification or repair. Building evacuations, fire watches, or official notices are required as needed to offset the risk associated with any temporary shutdowns.

The purpose of the statewide **Fire Department Liaison** is the active collaboration of the campus fire marshal and the fire service in the communities where Georgia Tech operates or occupies facilities.

Residential Facilities

The Fire Safety Office annually inspect all Georgia Tech residential facilities. Additionally, Georgia Tech's Housing Department performs safety inspections at random times during the year to ensure compliance with the Housing Department's fire safety policy. Because of the seriousness of the consequences that could result from failure to comply with fire codes and Georgia Tech's Housing Policy, Georgia Tech takes disciplinary action on the first offense. Such actions may include the imposition of a fine by the Housing Department. The Institute also has the right to require students who violate these safety rules to vacate their accommodations with no financial credit for the remainder of the semester.

The Georgia Tech Fire Safety Office annually inspect on-campus Greek Housing. Each semester that Greek houses are occupied, the Fire Safety Office will conduct and observe fire evacuation drills. State of Georgia Fire and Life Safety rules and regulations are the predominant mechanism for fire safety rules and policies.

Copies of the Fire Safety Report can be found at: www.ehs.gatech.edu/fire.

Fire Protection Systems

Fire Alarm Systems/Initiation — Pull Stations

Fire alarm pull stations are located at exit doors, exit stairs, and corridors in Georgia Tech Housing facilities. Fire alarm activation automatically alerts the building occupants and automatically dials the Central Station Monitoring Company, a full-service fire alarm central station. Central Station Monitoring notifies the appropriate authorities including the Georgia Tech Police Communications Center, which then contacts the City of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department.

Smoke Detection

Smoke detectors are located throughout each floor of every Georgia Tech Housing facility on campus. If smoke is detected, the fire alarm system will notify the building occupants through visual and audible alarms and automatically send a signal to Central Station Monitoring.

Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems

The rise of temperature associated with fire in an area will activate a sprinkler, causing the sprinkler system to send a signal to the Fire Alarm Control Unit; the fire alarm system will notify the building occupants through visual and audible alarms and automatically send a signal to Central Station Monitoring.

Ninety-five percent of Georgia Tech's Housing beds are covered by sprinkler protection. Future renovation project plans will accomplish 100 percent sprinkler coverage by Fall 2023.

Sprinklers must not be tampered with or used to hang personal items. This could activate the system, causing substantial water damage. Georgia Tech is not responsible for any loss students may incur because of negligence due to tampering with sprinkler heads. A resident who knowingly or accidentally activates a sprinkler may be charged for the repairs/cleanup and may be subject to the judicial process.

Fire Evacuation Drills

The Georgia Tech Housing Department, in conjunction with the Georgia Tech Fire Safety Office, conducted a total of one hundred emergency evacuation drills this year. Emergency evacuation drills are conducted within 10 days of the beginning of classes each semester. The drills are conducted by activating every individual fire alarm system in each on-campus student housing facility. After the fire alarm is activated, students and visitors must exit immediately and gather at the designated safe refuge location. A sweep of all floors and a head count is conducted by a Housing staff representative and a Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) officer. Only when the alarm is silenced and the GTPD or local authority gives the "All Clear," may the building be reentered. Students who do not vacate the building when a fire alarm is activated may be subject to judicial action.

Note: For these drills only, the fire alarm system is reset by the Georgia Tech Housing Electrical Department. Georgia Tech-Lorraine and Shenzhen performs fire evacuation drills on a different schedule than the main campus.

Institute Policies and Rules in the Prevention of Fire

Prohibited Behaviors in Georgia Tech Residential Facilities:

- Misusing or tampering with fire safety equipment. This includes, but not limited to, fire extinguishers, hoses, horns, bells, conduit sections, alarm-pull trigger devices, fire sprinklers, central- relay control bases, and glass covers for fire extinguishers, as well as pulling false alarms.
- Obstructing hallways, sidewalks, or stairwells and impeding evacuation from a building during an emergency.
- Propping open any fire doors.
- Blocking or locking exit doors.
- Storing bicycles in stairwells or any other location that might impede evacuation from a building during an emergency.
- Possessing chemicals or substances that are potentially dangerous or highly flammable. This includes, but not limited to, gasoline, propane, lighter fluid, etc.
- Leaving food cooking unattended.
- Failing to vacate the building when the fire alarm system is activated.

Portable Electrical Appliances

- Halogen lamps are prohibited in all housing facilities.
- Hot plates are prohibited in all housing facilities.

- All appliances must be plugged directly into an appropriate wall receptacle of the appropriate amperage as indicated by the manufacturer's instructions. Extension cords, splitters, and power taps are prohibited from being used in conjunction with all portable electrical appliances.

Smoking and Open Flames

- Candles, incense, burners, and other open flame devices are prohibited.
 - Using any items that are potentially dangerous/flammable, including fireworks, hazardous materials, etc. is also prohibited.
 - Smoking is prohibited in all residence hall areas (rooms, apartments, suites, common areas, lobbies, lounges, stairwells, elevators, activity and recreation rooms, bathrooms, etc.).
- People who choose to smoke must be outdoors at least twenty-five feet from any residence hall.

Fire and Life Safety Inspections

Fire inspections in the residence halls are conducted annually by the Georgia Tech Fire Safety Office. During each semester, Georgia Tech Housing staff will check rooms, per the following rules, to ensure that there are no fire hazards or unusual safety hazards present.

- Halogen torchiere lights are prohibited.
- Electrical circuits must not be overloaded. There can be only one major appliance (such as refrigerator, TV, computer, microwave) per receptacle.
- Appliances and other higher-wattage equipment should be plugged directly into a wall outlet.
- Nothing can hang from the overhead lights, sprinkler heads, or pipes, or be attached to the ceiling.
- Appliances with damaged cords must be properly disposed of or repaired.
- Electrical appliances must be classified or listed for safety by Underwriters' Laboratory (UL) or Electrical Testing Labs (ETL).
- The grounding pin from a three-pronged electrical cord must never be removed.
- Coffeemakers and all other appliances with exposed heating elements must never be left unattended while in operation. They must be unplugged after each use and stored appropriately.
- No cords may be run under carpet. Stapling or tacking electrical wires to fixtures is prohibited.
- Hot plates are not allowed.
- Open element cooking or heating equipment is prohibited.

Georgia Tech Housing Facilities Evacuation Plans

General Procedures

If smoke or fire is discovered, the fire alarm must be activated immediately. Exit through the nearest door or stairway and proceed to the designated safe refuge area. If the nearest exit or exit stairwell is obstructed by smoke, fire, or other hazards, proceed to an alternate exit. Do not use elevators. Once everyone has assembled outside at the emergency evacuation assembly point, Housing PLs and RAs will account for all occupants and communicate with first responders if anyone is not accounted for, providing other information vital to safety and rescue. Building occupants shall not re-enter the building until the "All Clear" authorization is given by public safety officials/the authority having jurisdiction.

Evacuation plans for all of Georgia Tech's Housing facilities are located at: <http://housing.gatech.edu/reslife/Pages/Emergency-Alert-Plan.aspx>.

Greek Housing Facilities Evacuation Plans

General Procedures

If smoke or a fire is discovered, the fire alarm must be activated immediately. Exit through the nearest door or stairway and proceed to the designated safe refuge area. If the nearest exit or exit stairwell is obstructed by smoke, fire, or other hazards, proceed to an alternate exit. Do not use elevators. Once assembled outside at the designated meeting place, a member of the fraternity or sorority will account for all occupants and communicate with first responders if anyone is not accounted for, providing other information vital to safety and rescue. Building occupants shall not re-enter the building until the “All Clear” authorization is given by public safety officials/the authority having jurisdiction.

Reporting a Fire

To report a fire, students, employees, or visitors should call the Georgia Tech Police Communications Center by dialing 911 from any campus landline or 404.894.2500 from a cellphone.

Fire Safety Education Programs

Fire safety education and training programs are available for students, faculty, and staff. The Housing Department student staff members (SSMs) receive classroom/hands-on training annually and prior to the start of the fall semester in the following areas:

- Fire extinguisher use
- Evacuation and emergency preparedness
- Kitchen fire safety
- Life safety systems
- Georgia Tech Fire Safety Rules

In Case of a Fire

In the case of a fire, students, faculty, and staff must promptly evacuate the facility. If a staff member is present, he/ she may choose to attempt to extinguish the fire based on the fire extinguisher training received. While evacuating, notify others by activating the fire alarm system. Follow evacuation plans for the facility in which the fire has occurred. Remain at the meeting area until released by public safety officials, re-entering the building only once public safety officials have given the “All clear.” Never re-enter a burning building.

Reporting Fires

To report a fire, students, employees, or visitors should call the Georgia Tech Police Communications Center by dialing 911 from any campus landline or 404.894.2500 from a cellphone. All fires are reported to the Georgia Tech fire marshal via the EHS GT Fire Emergency Phone: 404.931.0507.

Planned Renovations and Upgrades

Georgia Tech aggressively upgrades fire alarm systems, fire sprinkler systems, and other egress-related components as needed and when buildings go through renovations. Whenever possible, projects are created outside of the set renovation schedule to upgrade older systems.

Georgia Tech
Shenzhen Arranged Facilities
Fire and Life Safety Overview

Buildings	Number of Beds	Fire Alarm System	Sprinkler System	Date Constructed	Last Renovation	Scheduled Renovations	Evacuation Drills Completed
Shenzhen-Building B55	406	Yes	No	2009	2018	-	3
Total	406	100%	0%				3

2022-Summary of Georgia Tech
Shenzhen Arranged Facilities
Related Fire Incidents

Buildings	Date	Time	Fires	Fire Cause	Injuries	Deaths	Property Damage
Shenzhen-Building B55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total			0		0	0	\$0

2021-Summary of Georgia Tech
Shenzhen Arranged Facilities
Related Fire Incidents

Buildings	Date	Time	Fires	Fire Cause	Injuries	Deaths	Property Damage
Shenzhen-Building B55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total			0		0	0	\$0

**2020-Summary of Georgia Tech
Shenzhen Arranged Facilities
Related Fire Incidents**

Buildings	Date	Time	Fires	Fire Cause	Injuries	Deaths	Property Damage
Shenzhen-Building B55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total			0		0	0	\$0

For More Information

You may contact the following departments for more information about the topics covered in this brochure:

Campus Police.....	404.894.2500
Counseling Center.....	404.894.2575
Dean of Students.....	404.894.2564
Diversity Issues and Programs.....	404.894.2561
Faculty and Staff Assistance Program.....	404.894.1225
Fire Safety Office.....	404.894.FIRE
Health Promotion.....	404.894.9980
Housing.....	404.894.2470
Human Resources.....	404.894.4847
Parking and Transportation Services.....	404.894.PARK & 404.385.RIDE
Stamps Health Service.....	404.894.1420
Singerette.....	404.385.7433
Womens Resource Center.....	404.385.0230

Emergency Phone Numbers

Environmental Health & Safety.....	404.216.5237
Fire-Medical-Police.....	911
Georgia Tech Police Department.....	404.894.2500

Other Emergency Numbers

Georgia Tech Counseling Center.....	404.894.2575
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.....	1.800.273.TALK
Sexual Assault Information Line.....	404.894.9000

Emergency Information Hotlines

Emergency Preparedness Information Hotline.....	404.894.7200
Inclement Weather Hotline.....	404.894.0500
Emergency Update Website.....	www.alerts.gatech.edu

To view this publication online, visit www.ehs.gatech.edu/fire.